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and Literature." His discoveries at Gezer gave him a cross-section of the history of the early occupants of Palestine including Israel. To a Bible student his chapters on the ages preceding the Hebrew monarchy are especially attractive, and, like the remainder of the book, are merely a condensation of the mass of information which he gathered in his work as excavator. A bibliography and map are very useful addenda to the handy little volume.

JOHNS, C. H. W. *Ancient Assyria*. Cambridge and New York: Putnam, 1912. 175 pages. 40 cents net.

Johns's little *Ancient Assyria* is a marvel of condensation. Really it is too much of one. Most of us would prefer that it be less bony, and more human. While his sketch is eminently readable and interesting for scholars of history who can read between the lines, a layman becomes almost wearied at the rapid succession of passing events and characters. A dozen fine half-tone cuts, a too brief bibliography, an index, and an uncolored map of Assyria conclude this, another volume in the "Cambridge Manuals of Science and Literature."

ROTHSTEIN, J. WILHELM. *Megillā, der Mischnatractat "Megillā."* Ins Deutsche übersetzt und mit besonderer Berücksichtigung des Neuen Testaments mit Anmerkungen versehen. Tübingen: Mohr, 1912. 20 pages. M. o. 70.

The Megillā (bookroll) usually means in the plural, the five books, Canticles, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, and Esther, which were read at five great feasts. But the term Megillā in this treatise refers to Esther. The Mischnatractat Megillā refers to the reading of Esther, and contains the regulations which are to be followed, especially those related in the ninth chapter, in the Jewish congregation. But the contents of the *Tractat* pertain in part only to the reading of the Megillā. The remainder deals with other things, some of which are only tangentially connected with the main theme. The translation is based on an Amsterdam edition of 1814 with constant reference to, and use of, later editions. The notes occupying about one-quarter of each page are especially valuable.

EISELEN, CARL FREDERICK. *The Christian View of the Old Testament*. New York: Eaton & Mains, 1912. 267 pages. \$1.

If the ordinary Bible student or reader of the Bible wants to know what Christian scholars believe today regarding the Old Testament he should pick up and read this book. Eiselen has canvassed some of the most troublesome questions that the layman in Bible study meets, and has presented sane, sensible solutions of them. Though no new theories or positions are advanced, the work will be a boon to many a man who has seriously stumbled over insignificant things that should never have disturbed his equilibrium. The mechanical make-up of the book can be improved in another edition, either by inserting the chapter-headings at the top of the right-hand page, or by putting this heading at the top of the left-hand page, and the chief thought of the two pages facing the reader at the top of the right-hand page. Such mechanical devices are a little more expensive, but immensely increase the handiness of a volume.